

An enormous landslip occurred at the Emily Place excavation, Auckland, on Thursday evening, as the result of heavy rain. The men were just leaving work when pieces fell from the cliff, and they ran for their lives. From 5,000 to 10,000 yards of stuff fell, burying drays and killing one horse. The driver escaped. The beach road is blocked for three chains, and traffic stopped. Fortunately none of the numerous buses which ply along the road were passing at the time, or there would have been a serious loss of life; and had the fall occurred earlier, few of the working party at the east side could have escaped instantaneous death.

The *North German Gazette* in an article states that Australia arrogantly denies that any other nation has equal rights with her in the Pacific.

The Imperial Parliament was formally prorogued on Thursday by commission. The Queen's Speech was read by the Lord Chancellor. It expresses regret that several important measures which had been introduced had failed to become law. It states that the friendliest intercourse continues to be maintained with the various Powers, and alludes to the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Mexican Republic. It laments the failure of the Conference on Egyptian affairs, and adds that the Government will continue to fulfil with fidelity the duties arising out of the presence of British troops in the Nile Valley. The special mission of Earl Northbrooke to Egypt will, it is believed, materially aid Her Majesty's counsellors on Egyptian questions and the future steps to be taken in that country. Regret is expressed that Zululand, outside the reserved territory, is now in a disturbed state. Allusion is made to the improvement which is manifest in Ireland, and to the prospects of an abundant harvest throughout the Kingdom. The Speech announces that the Parliament will be called together again in autumn, and concludes by saying that the prevailing loyalty to the Throne, and the respect shown to the law, inspire a belief that the national aim is to pursue a course of order and moderation, and there was every appearance of a settlement which will prove conducive to the happiness and liberties of the people and the peace of Europe.

MONDAY.

Mr. J. G. Holdsworth, commissioner of Crown Lands at Wellington, died on Saturday night from paralysis.

Nothing further has been heard of Moonlight, the prospector, who left Tophouse with a man named Bailey five weeks ago, intending to prospect Luke Station. A day or two after starting Bailey went out prospecting, leaving Moonlight in the tent mending his clothes. On Bailey's return Moonlight had gone. Nothing has been heard of him since. Search parties have been out, but without success.

A son of John Keatley, storekeeper, Kawakawa, aged four, was drowned in a hole 4ft. deep, which had been dug for a fencing-post.

A landslip on Friday at Onamutu buried Richard John Giles, son of a miner, who was working in the tunnel close by. The boy was dead when got out, after half-an-hour's digging. The child's mother was also buried up to the waist, but escaped unhurt.

The *Auckland Evening Star* says:—"The position in which the Canterbury members are now landed in the most amusing part of the farcical situation. Many of them during the elections exercised their arts in denouncing Greyism and snuffing out Montgomery. The latter was described by them as a respectable but harmless old gentleman, whose day was done, and now behold he is accepted as their priest and prophet, if not their king. The pill is a bitter one, but if Sir Julius Vogel has his way they are doomed to swallow it." The article closes thus:—"The situation is pregnant with excellent political lessons. In making the name of Vogel an election cry, the majority of those who professed themselves his supporters were moved by simple motives of selfishness. There were not a few pretty little financial schemes hanging in the balance, and for the sake of these, members will swallow much; but will they get them through now? We doubt it. Mr. Stout has got their Conservative noses to his grindstone, and if he should manage to establish himself in office, which is at present advised, we altogether disbelieve, he must either give them a sorry time of it or shipwreck his own reputation. To Mr. Stout also the events of the last few days have not been un-instructive. He has been trying to make oil and water mix, and discovered that no more than of old time will they amalgamate. If he had the last few months to live over again he would, we feel confident, snape his course differently. He has succeeded in splitting the party which he naturally could have worked with into two halves, and has tacked one half clumsily to another body, for which it has not the slightest affinity. If it holds together at all it cannot be for long, and the temporary union is only accomplished at the cost of much discomfort and injury to everyone concerned. Unless better judgment is used in the management of our new Ministry than has been shown at its inception, its life cannot be long in the land."

Most cheering news, says the *Dunstan Times*, has come in from the old Man Range, a very rich vein of stone having been struck in White's Company's claim. We did not glean the full particulars, but from what we can learn the stone was not of great thickness, but was of exceeding richness, both in loose gold and in the stone. All the other claims on the range are idle, they having no underground workings.

An elderly man named Price, belonging to Feilding, was found dead near the Wanganui racecourse on Saturday morning. His body was discovered in a small creek. The body was one mass of burns from head to foot. He is supposed to have slept in a hedge near by, which was much burned, and to have crawled to the creek for safety.

The *Bingarooma* struck on a rock off Akaroa Heads on Saturday morning during a thick fog. She was got off, and came on to Lyttelton. She is reported to be making water in the fore compartment, and will be docked at once.

The Vogel-Stout Administration (says the *Tuapeka Times*) takes its place in the list of New Zealand Ministries: whether it will survive long enough to make its mark in the history of the Colony is at present open to question. We are not ourselves inclined to think that the newly-launched ship of State is likely to go under at the first blast which the Opposition—beyond doubt powerful—will raise.

Very careful handling and steering will, however, be required to weather the storm; whilst the crew, it must be confessed, is rather a heterogeneous lot, of no particular, if we may so express it, political nationality. . . . Sir Julius Vogel is notoriously a Conservative to the backbone; Mr. Richardson, what we should term, a Liberal Conservative; whilst Sir George Whitmore has no sympathy whatever with democracy in any form, and would like to regulate the State on the military system. Mr. Macandrew and Mr. Montgomery may be regarded as moderate Liberals'. Both honourable gentlemen have to much age and experience to take up with Communitistic fads, or to gravely commit themselves as Ministers of the Crown to the preposterous theories with which the Premier at times edifies his Lyceum disciples.

The sculling-race between Edward Hanlon, of Toronto, Canada, and William Beach, of Sydney, for £500 aside and the championship of the world, took place on Saturday over the regular course on the Parramatta River. The weather was magnificent. The water was slightly rough. A splendid start was effected, and dead-level positions maintained for the first quarter of a mile. Hanlon then forged ahead, and when a mile and a half had been covered was about a length in advance. Beach, however, responded, and rowed right down on Hanlon. The latter allowed his boat to cross, and a foul took place. Hanlon put up his hands and claimed a foul. Beach, however, kept pulling away. Hanlon followed, but Beach came to the post an easy winner by five or six lengths. Time, 20 min. 29 sec. The umpire disallowed the foul claimed by Hanlon.

A convention of the Irish National League has been held at Boston, at which 410 delegates were present, and resolutions were passed in favour of full support being accorded to the principles of Mr. Parrell and his party.

The *London Times* announces that China has declared war against France, and is making active preparations to prosecute hostilities. A force of 6000 Chinese has been landed at Hoi-How, and havy masses of troops are being stationed along the Kwangsi, on the frontier of Tonquin. In the French Chamber of Deputies on Saturday a vote of credit of 76,000,000 francs for defraying the expenses in connection with the settlement of Tonquin was passed by a substantial majority. In his speech on the occasion M. Ferry remarked that the vote of the Chamber would materially strengthen the hands of the French Government in dealing with China.

TUESDAY.

We have pleasure in announcing two more good washings-up (says the *Kumara Times*),—Rowley and party for 150 ounces, and Price and party for 90 ounces. But can it be believed that out of this last-mentioned amount more than a fourth of its value (£93 15s.) had to be paid to the Mining department for water and use of sludge-channel! It is high time the extortionate charge for water on this goldfield should be reduced.

The Waibora and passengers have been released from quarantine.

Philip R. Macrae, of Welds Hill, Marlborough, was fined three-pence each on a flock of 20,000 sheep infected with scab. Defendant was given three months' grace to pay the fine, and an application for remission of the amount is to be laid before the Department if the sheep are declared to be clean by that time.

As we predicted would be the case (remarks the *Wellington Post*), Mr. Edward Wakefield, having failed to secure a seat in the new Ministry, is now intriguing against it, and will, it is said, take a prominent part in any attack which may be made on it. Yet Mr. Wakefield did his best to obtain the seat given to Mr. Richardson. No Ministry could however, be formed with a back broad enough to bear Mr. Wakefield on its back as a colleague, and, as we remarked a few days ago, he is safer as an enemy than as a friend.

Writing from Wellington on Sunday night, the correspondent of the *Timaru Herald* says:—"The rumour that a seat in the Legislative Council has been offered to Mr. Sheehan, who was defeated at Napier by an overwhelming majority less than a month ago, is now pretty fully confirmed by his arrival from Hawke's Bay by the steamer to-day. There is no doubt that Sir Julius Vogel himself telegraphed to Mr. Sheehan asking if he would accept a seat in the Council, and that Mr. Sheehan was to take till last night to consider his reply. Sir George Whitmore has paid a flying visit to Napier and returned to-day, and it is believed that his trip was connected with these overtures to Mr. Sheehan. Those who are supposed to know Mr. Stout's views say that Sir Julius Vogel acted in this matter without consulting him, and that Mr. Stout is very angry about it. Sir George Whitmore was probably at the bottom, for he and Mr. Sheehan are as much twins as Mr. Macandrew and Mr. Montgomery. The new Ministry is beginning to acquire the nickname of "Noah's Ark," because "the animals go in two by two."—Stout and Ballance, Vogel and Richardson, Macandrew and Montgomery, Whitmore and Sheehan, and two Native members of the Executive to bring up the rear of the procession and give it the necessary local colouring.—The Legislative Councillors are wild with rage at the idea of Mr. Sheehan being pitched into their Chamber, and, if the plan is carried out the whole influence of super-repectability will certainly be arraigned against the Ministry; but it is solely a question of votes just now, and if Mr. Sheehan can get hold of two or three of the Native members, it is believed that it may just turn the scale. My own belief is that the plan is too dangerous, and that Mr. Stout will prevent it, even at the risk of a row in the Cabinet. The conviction is growing that Sir Julius Vogel has quite lost the thread of New Zealand politics, and is grievously misinformed as to the state of feeling both inside and outside of the House."

The *Ross Mercury* says:—"Prospecting at the reefs is now almost at a standstill, owing to it being next to impossible to work, there being fully eighteen inches of snow on the ground. It will therefore be about a month before we are likely to hear of anything important. Two men returned to town from the reefs on Thursday last, and state that it is impossible to work owing to the heavy fall of snow and extremely cold weather. The main road on the north side of Ross is in a bad condition, and urgently requires attention from the City Council.